

# Book News.

Dr. Alexander Smith, of the University of Chicago, has rewritten and condensed his "Introduction to General Inorganic Chemistry," which had a sale of over fifteen thousand copies in the first two years; and the next text book, "General Chemistry for Colleges," will be published in time for college use this winter.

In September The Century Co. will publish the book which Harvey J. O'Higgins has made of David Wainfield's impersonation of "A Grand Army Man," with sixty pictures by Martin Justice.

Gelett Burgess is in Paris, where he spent his student days. He is supposed to be at work on a lively romance of the American colony in the French capital, a distinct departure from The Heart Line and The White Cat.

Eugene W. Presbrey, the well-known playwright, is at work on a dramatization of The Coast of Chance, the Chamberlains' popular story. Mr. Presbrey has established himself as the most successful adapter of novels for the stage. He is the author of the stage versions of, among other books, Tribby, Raffles, A Gentleman of France and The Right of Way. It is Mr. Presbrey's habit to work with a free hand, recasting his material from the ground up, and using it as a pattern to be slavishly followed. At the same time he manages to transfer to the boards the essential spirit, if not the precise form, of the original. It is understood that the dialogue in his dramatization of The Coast of Chance will be almost entirely his own. In the play, as in the book, Flora will be the central character, though the part of Kerr, the mysterious Englishman, will rank of almost equal importance. The Coast of Chance continues to be one of the "six best sellers."

An important article in the September Century will be a discussion of The Future Wheat Supply by Edward C. Parker, assistant in agriculture at the agricultural experiment station, University of Minnesota. He urges that the United States has much unoccupied land available for wheat production, that large yields of wheat may be maintained on old soils by means of systematic crop rotation, and that, most important of

all, the limit of agriculture's present possibilities will be set aside by a new limit set by each succeeding generation—therefore, the possibilities in increasing the world's supply of wheat, as well as that of the United States, are manifold and impossible of estimation.

Harold MacGrath's favorite pastime is riding horseback. He and his brown mare are the best of comrades. They go off together for a week at a time. There is much about this fine sport in all of MacGrath's popular novels.

Hallie Arminie Rives is writing a novel, the scene of which is laid in Japan. Her husband, Post Wheeler, is the second secretary of the American embassy at Tokyo. The author and the diplomat were married shortly before the publication of Satan Descends.

Among women who write there is some diversity of opinion about women's clubs. Many of the best known writers are identified with club life. Gertrude Atherton, of course, being the great exception, and the newer ones are also divided among themselves. "I am very fond of clubs," confesses Maudie Radford Warren, who is being noticed as the author of the new Harper novel, The Land of the Living. "I belong to half a dozen or so of all sorts—merely social, purely fashionable, really intellectual, and solely philanthropic. In short, I belong to all the nice clubs I can find."

Reprints are announced by the Harpers of Two on a Tower, by Thomas Hardy, and St. Katherine's by the Tower, by Walter Besant.

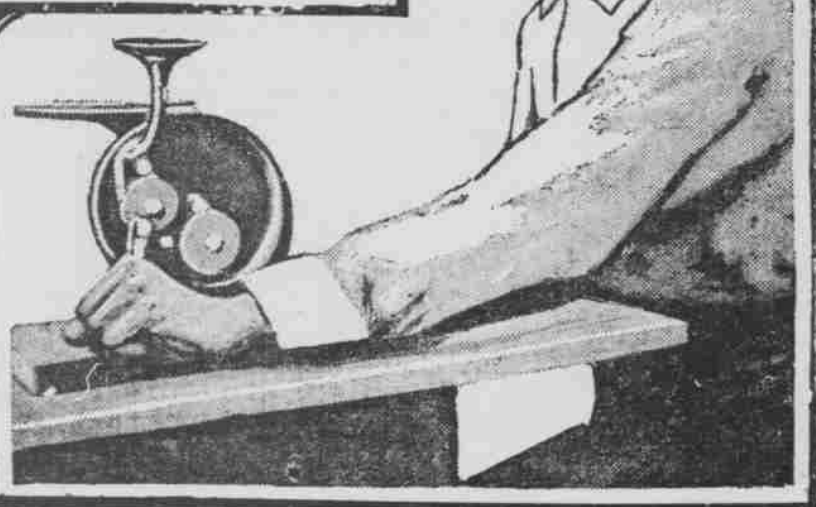
General Kuropatkin's Memoirs of the Russo-Japanese War, which were suppressed by the Russian authorities, furnish the leading article in the September McClure's. General Kuropatkin makes striking charges concerning the causes of the war, and remarkable revelations concerning the great policies of the Russian empire.

Another writer to spend the summer in Maine is Norman Duncan, author of The Cruise of the Shining Light and other stories of the seacoast familiar to readers of Harper's Magazine. Mr. Duncan is in camp at a place whose very name is suggestive of things cool and remote—Indian Pond, at Moosehead Lake.

## A WONDERFUL GRIP.

Something of William Patten's Remarkable Invention.

The modern rifle is so far in advance of the ancient bow and arrow that we sometimes think perfection has been attained. Never was the fallacy of this more clearly demonstrated than during the past month, when William Patten's demonstrations with his new powderless, nonexplosive gun proved that powder was no longer necessary. It is



William Patten and His Wonderful Nonexplosive Gun.

altogether too early to definitely state as to whether this invention is to take the place of rifles in warfare, but it is claimed by the inventor, and his demonstrations have given strong proof, that this will be the case. With this simple gun, less than six feet long, it is possible to fire 50,000 shots a minute. It would do more deadly execution in a few minutes than the Union and Confederate armies did at Gettysburg. It would weigh 500 pounds and could be carried in an automobile very handsomely. Patten's gun uses no powder, the steel bullets being fired from the turning of a crank. The bullets are drawn in by a vacuum and carried with tremendous force around the cylinder and then expelled with such force that a half ounce ball has a

600-foot pull. These bullets kill at 2,000 feet. William Patten lives at 270 West One Hundred Thirty-sixth street, New York city. He got his idea for his new gun from seeing a fly wheel burst. That was five years ago, in the place where he now lives. He came here 18 months ago and began on the model of his gun, which he had in his mind ever since leaving England. One advantage of this gun is that there is no smoke and the firing is absolutely noiseless. Another great advantage is its economy, for there is no expense connected with it except the original apparatus and the cost of the steel bullets. No shells, powder or workmanship is required. The model shown above is of brass and looks like a meat-chopper and is on the order of a cylindrical pencil sharpener. Mr. Patten has been in communication with the council in New York and also in South America with a view to having his gun adapted for use against smugglers. It is said the United States will have first chance at his gun for use in the army or navy.

## SOME

### "SOFT WATER" FACTS

#### Cleaner Clothes

Make a soap suds in hard water. See how quickly it turns to scum and black greasy specks. These specks settle upon the clothes when they are washed in the hard water and spot and speck them. The scum settles in the clothes and makes them gray in color and dingy blue looking. We have a water softening system in our laundry and use nothing but "Soft Water" for the entire cleaning process, thus avoiding all trouble. A few weeks trial will prove to you the difference that washing clothes in "Soft Water" makes.

Not How Quick, But How Good!

**THE MUTUAL**  
Topeka's Soft Water Laundry

## BOWSER TENTS OUT.

But the Experiment Had Disadvantages.

An hour before Mr. Bowser came home to dinner the other evening an express wagon brought a small tent to the house and, of course, Mrs. Bowser was all agog to know what was going to happen. She had made up her mind that Mr. Bowser was going to take her to the seashore or the woods and was looking to see what old dresses she could wear when he arrived home. When asked about the tent he replied:

"Mrs. Bowser, have you ever heard of Professor Baumgarten, the celebrated scientist?"

"I don't remember."

"He is the man who discovered that there was an electric current passing through the earth from darkness to sunrise, and that the said current was beneficial to many human complaints when rightly taken."

"But you have no human complaints."

"That's all you know about it. Because I'm not complaining every few minutes you think nothing of it. I had a little time this afternoon and I wrote down a few of my ailments in this form. There they are."

And he handed her a paper with the following record nicely drawn up and typewritten:

Rheumatism. Heartburn. Asthma. Lumbago. Heartburn. Dyspepsia. Liver comp. Catarrh. Flatulency.

"It's all nonsense!" exclaimed Mrs. Bowser after reading the list. "If there's a healthier man in this town than you are I'd like to know his name."

"Healthy! Why, I had a sinking spell not four hours ago!" he shouted. "Yes, you probably sunk down in a chair. Why, man, you eat enough at every meal to do for two common men. That boiled ham we had last night—"

"Never mind the boiled ham. It's no use to tell you that I may not live three months. The doctor says it's the worst complication of ailments he ever saw. It is only a short time before I shall check that you'll awake to the fact that I was an uncompensated sufferer for years."

"But what about the tent? Are you going to swallow that to cure yourself of some of the ailments?"

"Mrs. Bowser, we'll treat this as a serious matter—a very serious matter. We'll shut up about it. It is no time for sarcasm when a man's life is hanging in the balance."

"Well, then?"

"I shall put up the tent in the back yard and sleep in it in order to get the ground current. I have every faith in the experiment. I believe that after the first three nights I shall be feeling much better. I wish you wouldn't irritate me this evening. I have been thinking of coffins and tombstones all day, and I have a fear that I have begun this experiment too late."

"Why, my dear husband, if you feel that way I haven't a word to say in opposition. Go right ahead and put up your tent and occupy it. I don't know anything about the electric current, but it will help even one of my ailments. I shall be thankful. You'll need a mattress, of course?"

"No, I shall sleep on the bare ground. I want the full effect of the current."

At dinner, which was one of the heartiest he had eaten in a month, Mr. Bowser carried the tent to the back yard and set it up. When the cook saw what was going on she went to Mrs. Bowser and said:

"Mum, could you get another girl and let me go this evening?"

"But why, Bridget?"

"Because I want to be found alive in the morning, and I see that Mr. Bowser is fixing to explode us all. It's the water pipes, and the gas pipes, and the hot water, and the cold water, and dynamite, and gunpowder, and the furnace, and I've got so scared that I'm finding gray hairs in my head."

Bridget was quiet with a guarantee of safety, and Mr. Bowser came in for an hour before retiring to get the electric current. During this time he had a great deal to say about the north pole and the south pole and the gulf stream, and finally predicted that his sleeping in the tent might be the means of saving the world the exact cause of earthquakes, volcanoes and cyclones. He finally hunted up pencil and paper and took his way to the yard. As was afterwards ascertained, he made notes, and the notes read as follows:

"I have retired to the tent. Over forty cats about. It may be the electric current of the earth that gives cats nine lives."

"I have stretched myself on the grass. I seem to feel a vibration of the earth. May be a truck going past on the street, or may be Prof. Baumgarten's electric current."

"There is a quiet crackling of the grass. Electricity must be at work."

"This is restful. I am feeling a holy calm steal over me."

"The above-mentioned holy calm was interrupted by a cat entering the tent, but I soon walked her out again."

"This is a heap better than going to the woods. No danger of bears or snakes, and you get the electric current besides."

"I think I feel the current passing from the north to the south pole, but may be mistaken."

"I was mistaken. It was only a chicken bone under my back. Perhaps the current is late in getting started tonight."

"Several other cats invaded the tent to be clubbed out."

"Just saw Mrs. Bowser at a back window looking out. She needn't concern herself about me. There was there a more peaceful situation than this. It combines all the advantages of the seashore with all the comforts of home."

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PROBABLE NEW GERMAN AMBASSADOR AND HIS AMERICAN WIFE.

It has been semi-officially announced in Washington that Count Louet von Goetzen, formerly governor general of German East Africa, may succeed the late Baron Speck von Sternburg as German ambassador to this country. Like the Baroness von Sternburg, the Countess von Goetzen is an American. Before her marriage to the count she was Mrs. May Stanley Lay of Washington. They were married in 1898.

## DEBS'S ANTIDOTE.

Remedy for Existing Conditions Is Socialism, He Declares.

Terre Haute, Ind., Aug. 29.—None of the presidential candidates in the present campaign has more pronounced or advanced views on current affairs than Eugene V. Debs, who heads the Socialist ticket. Speaking of socialism as an antidote for prevailing public problems, Mr. Debs offers what he considers a constructive socialistic policy.

"It is generally admitted that something is wrong," said Mr. Debs. "The depression in industry, the millions of unemployed, the unequal distribution of wealth, the discontent that prevails and the frequent labor troubles are a few evidences of this fact, which will hardly be denied by anyone."

"Socialism holds that these troubles are inherent in the very system under which industry is now conducted, and can never be eradicated until that system is overthrown and another substituted in its place. Even Mr. Bryan admits that there can be no real remedy under the present order, for he said in Everybody's for July: 'The government isn't strong enough to govern trusts. . . . The remedy must be found by an approach to equity.' Even Mr. Taft admits that there can be no real and effective remedy under the present order, for he recently said in an interview at Hot Springs, Va.: 'There is no absolute remedy.'"

"There can be no real remedy under the present order, because: '1. Industry is monopolized in nature, being ruled by the owners of the machine and the workers are dependents on others for their jobs, and the means of livelihood. '2. Industry is now run for profits, and the captains of industry are interested in getting out of it all they can, while the interest of the workers is opposed to this, in cutting down profits and increasing wages. Out of this condition grows inevitably a class struggle, which is inherent in the system and can never be ended until the system is ended.'"

"Steady again and all O. K. Heartburn gone, dyspepsia gone, asthma a heap better. It's lulling me to sleep."

And to sleep he went. Mrs. Bowser looked on occasionally to see that all was well, and there was no alarm till midnight. Then, after an interval of half an hour she peered forth and uttered an exclamation. Three tramps had come through the alley gate and folded up the tent and Mr. Bowser with it and were passing out again. She called and called, but they paid no heed. They were not interested in Professor Baumgarten's electric currents of earth. (Copyrighted, 1908, by T. C. McClure.)

LEAD A STRENUOUS LIFE.

The late Marquis di Rudini, the Italian statesman, led the strenuous life. At 2 he was one of Garibaldi's lieutenants in wrestling Sicily from the Bourbons, having in the meantime succeeded in evading a capital sentence which the Neapolitan monarch had launched against him. Before he was 30, as mayor of Palermo he put down brigandage, suppressed the Mafia, and impressed the Sicilians with the conviction that killing policemen was the same thing as murder. Throughout his life, which has just ended at threescore and ten, he was an exemplar of that tireless energy which we are too apt to think is monopolized by the Teutonic stock.—Boston Transcript.

MR. BOWSER CARRIED THE TENT TO THE BACK YARD AND SET IT UP.

"No mistake about the current. I feel soothing creeping over me, and my liver is glad for the first time in years. It would be a wonderful thing if I was completely cured. I would give the Professor a testimonial over my own name."

"The current is twitching around somewhat. Has probably hit against the electric oil company, and neither of them will give way."

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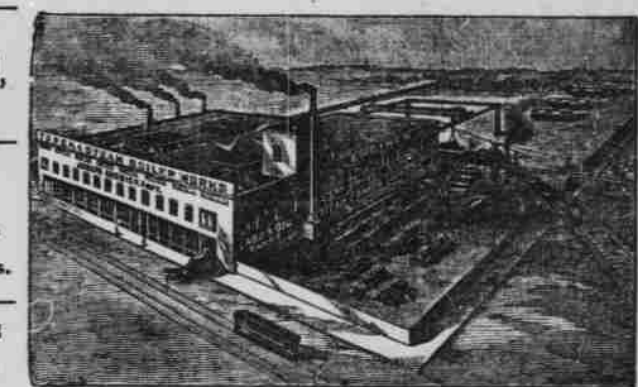
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